

M E D I A R E L E A S E
STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 23, 2007

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**COVER TENNESSEE OFFERS HEALTH
COVERAGE OPTIONS TO STATE'S UNINSURED**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Cover Tennessee, Governor Phil Bredesen's multi-pronged initiative that extends health insurance options to uninsured individuals in Tennessee, is making health insurance coverage a reality for many Tennesseans. Since Bredesen signed Cover Tennessee into law on June 12, 2006, three new health insurance programs – CoverTN, AccessTN, and CoverKids – and a pharmacy assistance program have been created and launched within nine months. The three insurance programs currently are enrolling Tennesseans. Coverage began April 1.

"The health and well-being of Tennesseans is one of my top priorities, so I'm pleased that these programs are up and running so quickly," said Bredesen. "Cover Tennessee is a sensible first step in addressing the growing rate of uninsured people in our state."

To date, more than 12,000 businesses have pre-qualified and 1,121 individuals are currently enrolled in CoverTN; 268 are enrolled in CoverKids; and 1,318 are enrolled in AccessTN. BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee administers the health plans. CoverRx, the first of the Cover Tennessee programs to be up and running, is currently serving more than 21,000 individuals.

Cover Tennessee offers health insurance to uninsured individuals in Tennessee through three insurance programs and a pharmacy assistance program. CoverTN, the centerpiece of the initiative, is an affordable and portable health insurance initiative for uninsured small businesses. Comprehensive insurance for children is provided through CoverKids, and chronically ill adults are eligible for AccessTN, a high-risk pool. CoverRx is a statewide pharmacy assistance program designed to assist those who have no pharmacy coverage, but have a critical need for medication.

More information on all Cover Tennessee programs is available at www.CoverTN.gov or by calling 1-866-COVERTN.

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